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A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF FIDELITY BONDS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CORPORATE FIDELITY BONDS. By H. Barratt Walker, of Baltimore: Wilson Bros., Law Publishers. Pp. XV. 303.

This book contains a rather full collection of cases in which the law has been applied to corporate fidelity bonds, with considerable explanatory matter in notes by the compiler and other well-known writers on the subject. The author has admirably stated the principle of each leading case in a few words, and where possible has used the very language of the Court deciding the case. While not much light is thrown upon the development of the fundamental principles of suretyship, the work has the advantage of treating with some detail different topics embraced in the subject, and for this reason should be very acceptable in the sphere from which it was produced—"the firing line" of active practice.

I. E. D. C.

THE CIVIL CODE OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE. As Enacted on August 18, 1896, with the Introductory Statute enacted on the same date. (In Effect January 1, 1900). Translated by Walter Loewy, B. L. (Univ. of Cal.), LL. B. (Univ. of Pa.). J. U. D. (Heidelberg). Translated and published under the auspices of and annotated by a special committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania. Boston: The Boston Book Co. London; Sweet and Maxwell, Limited. 1909. Pp. LXXI, 689.

The Civil Code must be considered in its relation to other laws of the empire, the State Laws, and to the Customary Law. The decisions of the courts should also be referred to in connection with the Civil Code; for the history of German jurisprudence shows that in practice the influence of judicial decisions cannot be denied. The translator observes: "Such decisions have great weight and are practically regarded as precedents when they represent the consistent practice of the courts."

Since the formation of the Empire, a great number of Imperial Laws have been enacted, of which the German Civil Code is an important one.

The first Code Commission, after submitting its draft, was at its own request empowered to draft Acts governing Land Registration, Ex Parte Matters (*Freiwillige Gerichtsbarkeit*), and Execution Proceedings, etc. These Ancillary Laws (*Nebengesetze*) went into effect simultaneously with the Code on January 1, 1900.

This code does not include the regulation of "Commercial" transactions. Under the formal plan of 1874, the Commercial Law was to be the subject of separate codification. The Commercial Code of 1861 had been adopted by the empire, but its provisions exceeded the proper limits of the "law of merchants." The new Commercial Code was adopted May 10, 1897, and went into effect simultaneously with the Civil Code.

In the preparation of the Civil Code, the list of subjects reserved to the States "gradually grew as the commissioners realized the practical impossibility of abolishing certain State laws, which formed integral parts of the State's history. The exceptions in favor of the State Laws are made partly in the code itself and partly in the Introductory Statute." The State retained in the main "police" regulations, "the provision for matters intimately associated with the internal wel-